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UNCLAS KUWAIT 004401

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI SWALKER, LONDON FOR LTSOU, ISLAMABAD FOR TWILDER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [AMGT](#) [XD](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: MGXDO1: KUWAIT OFFERS \$100M IN EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 187437

1. (U) On October 11, the Council of Ministers (cabinet) announced a \$100M assistance package for victims of the South Asia earthquake. While the specific disbursement modalities remain to be worked out, initial feedback from the GOK indicates that the assistance will be split equally between the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

2. (U) KRCS is expected to coordinate the disbursement of \$50M in relief assistance with other international aid organizations. These funds will be in addition to the \$250,000 KRCS has already contributed through representative offices in Islamabad. KFAED is expected to administer the remaining \$50M, either through grants or concessional loans (to be determined), for infrastructure repair projects in the affected areas.

3. (U) Press reports also point to broader support from business and Pakistani expatriate associations seeking to provide relief assistance. According to the Kuwait Times (English daily), approximately 80 Kuwaiti businesses have apparently contacted the Pakistani Embassy on donation procedures and 25 local Pakistani organizations have offered to assist with the relief effort and have set-up an Earthquake Relief Committee, headed by a Pakistani expatriate from the Kashmir region. Also, Pakistani International Airlines (PIA) has apparently offered to transport gratis all aid cargo from Kuwait.

4. (U) CENTCOM components in Kuwait are already engaged in logistic support of relief efforts with materiel now moving through U.S. military facilities in country to affected areas. Post is in direct contact with CENTCOM and will facilitate any GOK requests for assistance in delivery of relief supplies. Post will continue to monitor and report on these and other further developments.

LEBARON